

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois	}	
	}	
Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience	}	
and Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of	}	
the Illinois Public Utilities Act, and an Order	}	
pursuant to Section 8-503 of the Public Utilities	}	Case No.: 12-0598
Act, to Construct, Operate and Maintain a New	}	
High Voltage Electric Service Line and Related	}	
Facilities in the Counties of Adams, Brown, Cass,	}	
Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Edgar,	}	
Fulton, Macon, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie,	}	
Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, and Shelby,	}	
Illinois.	}	

**DIRECT TESTIMONY ON REHEARING
OF
JEFF SPENCER**

Intervenor MSSCLPG Exhibit 10.0

1 **DIRECT TESTIMONY ON REHEARING OF JEFF SPENCER**

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND CURRENT RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.**

3 A. Jeffrey Spencer. 1061 Coultas Road, Winchester, Illinois 62694.

4 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS OR OCCUPATION?**

5 A. I am a farmer. I farm 800 acres that my mother, sister, and I own. I also cash rent and farm
6 ten acres from a neighbor.

7 **Q. WHERE IS YOUR FARM LOCATED?**

8 A. We are located about three miles north of Winchester, Illinois, in Scott County.

9 **Q. HOW DID YOU BECOME AWARE OF THIS PROCEEDING?**

10 A. I was first contacted about the last of May or first of June 2013. I received a letter from
11 ATXI requesting that I allow surveyors to come upon my farm and survey. ATXI asked that
12 I grant permission in writing. I did not do so. About the third week of July 2013, a lady
13 from Ameren in St. Louis called. She said she needed permission to survey for the new
14 alternate route. She advised me that I was on an alternate route that would not be used, as
15 the actual route would go north of Jacksonville, and this was a mere formality for the Illinois
16 Commerce Commission, and that I would not hear from her again once the surveying was
17 completed. I agreed that the survey could be done if the survey trucks remained on the
18 roadway. Shortly after that, I found two surveyors driving a truck into my cattle lot. They
19 were from a business known as "SAM." I asked them what they were doing and they said
20 they were there to survey. I said that I had given permission to survey but not to bring
21 vehicles onto my land. They removed their truck and then walked onto the land. I asked
22 them whom they were working for and they said they did not know. They said they simply

23 had a surveying order and they were there to carry it out.

24 **Q. WHEN DID YOU ACTUALLY BECOME INFORMED THAT THE ILLINOIS**
25 **COMMERCE COMMISSION HAD ISSUED AN ORDER OF AUGUST 20, 2013**
26 **APPROVING THE REBUTTAL RECOMMENDED ROUTE?**

27 A. This was front page news in the Jacksonville paper a day or two after the order was issued.
28 I was quite surprised. Other than what I stated above, I had no notice that there was any
29 possibility that a power line would go anywhere near my property. In fact, to the contrary,
30 the lady from Ameren in St. Louis said it was a mere formality and that the line would go
31 north of Jacksonville.

32 **Q. WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN THE TIME TO FILE THIS TESTIMONY?**

33 A. Since learning that the line would be coming along my property, and might affect my
34 property, I have taken the time to find out what is actually going on. I now have found that
35 two routes were initially presented for consideration, a primary route and an alternate route.
36 I further found that there is an existing corridor which services a 138 kV line between
37 Meredosia and Pawnee, Illinois, and that certain parties have suggested that this would be
38 the best routing option.

39 **Q. ARE YOU ASKING THAT THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**
40 **APPROVE A ROUTE THAT RUNS FROM MEREDOSIA TO PAWNEE, ILLINOIS,**
41 **UTILIZING THE EXISTING 138 kV CORRIDOR, WHICH ROUTE HAS COME TO**
42 **BE KNOWN AS THE MSCLTF ROUTE?**

43 A. Yes I am. The more I learn about this situation the more it makes sense to me. The
44 MSCLTF Route appears to be the straightest route, the shortest route by about eighteen

45 miles, and is surely the least expensive to build by approximately \$36.8 million. The more
46 I look at it, it simply makes no sense to install a new power line that is going to cost much
47 more to construct and will affect farmland that does not have lines upon it .

48 **Q. AS TO YOUR OWN FARMING OPERATIONS, WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL**
49 **THOUGHTS AS TO HOW THIS WILL AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY?**

50 A. I farm three separate tracts of land. On two of the tracts, the farmland will be affected along
51 one side by the Rebuttal Recommended Route, and on the third tract, the proposed lines will
52 run along two sides of the tract. In any event, it would certainly limit my use of the land.
53 If these lines are placed on or near my land, I will no longer be able to utilize aerial
54 application of fungicides and herbicides, which are absolutely necessary in modern farming.
55 I likewise am fearful that the 345 kV line will interfere with the GPS system I currently use.
56 I use GPS technology for planting, fertilizing, and spraying. I have the ability and plan to
57 use GPS for harvesting. I am informed and I have every reason to believe that these new 345
58 kV lines will disrupt my GPS system.

59 **Q. YOU MENTIONED THE USE OF GPS FOR THE APPLICATION OF**
60 **FERTILIZER. PLEASE DESCRIBE THIS.**

61 A. It is described as variable rate application. The equipment applies fertilizer in such quantities
62 as may be necessary and helpful to the land that has been tested. It does not apply more, and
63 hopefully not less, than is needed in any particular part of our fields. This is the up to date
64 technology for application of fertilizer and is tremendously helpful to the farmer in that more
65 fertilizer, and thus more money, is not exhausted than is necessary. Equally important, there
66 are environmental concerns with regard to the application of fertilizer. Overapplication

67 results in pollution. By that, I mean that excess fertilizer runs off the fields and into the
68 various waterways, such as the Illinois River. In our area, this would move from the Illinois
69 River to the Mississippi River and down to the Gulf of Mexico. This is a real concern. If
70 we are to be keepers and good stewards of our land, we must utilize the latest technology.

71 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS REGARDING THE POTENTIAL**
72 **PLACEMENT OF A 345 kV LINE AT OR NEAR YOUR PROPERTY?**

73 A. Yes, I do. Since this has all come up, I have attempted to educate myself as to what can
74 happen. First, I have two boys who are starting to work with me on the farm. I have safety
75 concerns for my two boys and any other children, farmers, and farm workers, who might
76 work in the vicinity of 345 kV lines. I understand there can be occasion when the lines
77 energize nearby fences. These are real concerns that I have. I simply do not know the full
78 extent of the potential for problems. The more I research, the more I do not believe anyone
79 has a firm grasp on this potential.

80 **Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD AT THIS TIME?**

81 A. Yes. I feed cattle. I have read that cattle can be affected by the 345 kV line. Once again, I
82 do not believe we know all of the implications associated with a 345 kV line being located
83 near livestock.

84 **Q. YOU ARE ADVOCATING THAT THE NEW 345 kV LINE BE PLACED ALONG**
85 **THE EXISTING 138 kV CORRIDOR. IS THAT CORRECT?**

86 A. Yes, it is. Although I am not necessarily happy that other farmers will be affected by this
87 line, I can only state that it is my understanding that those farmers and landowners are
88 already encumbered by a power line along and upon their land and an existing corridor is

89 now in place where the new line could be placed. I think the disruption to their farming
90 operations would be much less than if the lines are placed upon farmland that is not currently
91 affected. That is not to say this is an ideal situation, but at least it will be less disruptive to
92 them as they are already dealing with the existing lines. I might also add that a lot less land
93 would be affected if the new line is placed along the existing 138 kV corridor.

94 **Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?**

95 A. I would like to say that I certainly did not know about this situation until I first received the
96 request for surveying in late May or early June 2013. As I mentioned above, when I did
97 receive a phone call from the representative of Ameren in St. Louis, she said not to worry
98 about it and that this was a mere formality. It does not now appear that this was a mere
99 formality. I think at the very least someone should have contacted me and indicated that
100 there was at least a possibility that the new line could go along my land. I do not believe this
101 was fair and wholly honest.

102 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

103 A. Yes, it does.